

Welcome to the wonderful world of third grade! I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year. Our classroom is a vibrant space of discovery, intellectual growth, and joy. I am particularly enthusiastic about the journey we will embark on together as we dive deep into advanced reading and writing.

Our comprehensive curriculum is meticulously aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) for 3rd Grade English Language Arts. In our community, we know families value a rigorous, high-quality education that builds a strong foundation for future academic success. This year, our goal is to transition your child from "learning to read" to "reading to learn," transforming them into analytical readers, critical thinkers, and highly expressive, clear communicators.

### **Reading Curriculum: Cultivating Analytical & Fluent Readers**

In third grade, we move beyond decoding words and step into deep textual analysis. To prepare students for the complex texts they will encounter in upper elementary and standardized assessments, our reading blocks focus on several key areas:

- **Textual Evidence & Comprehension (ILS.R.1-3):** Students will learn to read closely, ask probing questions, and explicitly cite evidence from the text to support their answers. We will master identifying the central message, summarizing both high-quality fiction and complex informational texts, and mapping logical cause-and-effect relationships.
- **Reading Fluency & Stamina:** We will practice reading aloud with expression, precision, and appropriate pacing. By exploring diverse genres including historical fiction, scientific articles, poetry, and folktales, we build the visual and structural stamina required for advanced reading.
- **Academic Vocabulary Acquisition (ILS.R.4):** We will systematically expand your child's vocabulary. Students will learn to use structural clues (prefixes, suffixes, and root words) and context to decipher advanced or technical words independently.
- **Structure & Point of View (ILS.R.5-6):** We will analyze how authors structure their writing, how chapters build upon one another, and how to distinguish a reader's perspective from that of the narrator or characters.

### **Writing Curriculum: Crafting Structured, Purposeful Prose**

Writing in third grade is all about precision, structure, and voice. We teach students how to organize their thoughts logically and back them up with substance. Your child will master three core writing styles outlined by Illinois standards:

- **Opinion Writing (ILS.W.1):** Students will learn to state a clear point of view, structure a logical argument, and provide strong, evidence-based reasons to support their opinions, using linking words (e.g., *therefore*, *because*, *since*) to connect ideas.

- **Informational/Explanatory Writing (ILS.W.2):** Young writers will conduct mini-research projects, group related facts into clear paragraphs, and use text features (like headings and illustrations) to convey complex information clearly.
- **Narrative Writing (ILS.W.3):** Students will craft engaging stories with a distinct sequence of events, using descriptive details, clear dialogue, and reflective pacing to show character reactions and thoughts.
- **Language Mechanics & Grammar (ILS.L.1-3):** Excellent ideas deserve excellent execution. We place a strong emphasis on command of standard English grammar, including sophisticated sentence structures, correct punctuation (commas in addresses and dialogue), precise capitalization, and accurate spelling patterns.

Third grade is a pivotal, exciting year where students truly begin to command language and use it to explore the world around them. I am so looking forward to a year of fantastic stories, high-level discussions, and incredible growth with your child.

Warmly,

Brenda Haugg, [M.Ed.](#)

A.K.A: Mrs. H

Third Grade Teacher

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